



Ntlo e ntjha ho moahi Leqhepe 3



Temothuo Gladstone. Leqhepe.4



NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT pages 2,3,4 & 7

## Basebetsi ba utlwa boima



Basebetsi ba bokane ho tseka tjelele eo ba lokelang ho e fumana ya UIF. Ba re monga feme o a thinyathinya tabeng ena, mme ha ana nnete.

**Thaba Nchu.** Basebetsi ba ba ngata ba ngongorehile haholo, mme ba ipotsa hore na ba tla kgutlela mesebetsing ha ho fediswa lockdown kapa e iswa maamong a tlaselase a fedising thibelo ka hohlehohle. Ba ba ngata difemeng tsa Botshabelo le Thaba Nchu ba tsielehile hobane le jwale ba sa dutse hae ba emetse ho bitswa ho kgutlela mesebetsing ya bona.

Ba bang ba ferekane hobane ba dutse hae mme ba emetse ho fumantshwa tjelele ya COVID-19 UIF eo boramesebetsi ba entseng kopo ya yona. Le ha maemo a thibelo a se a fokoditswe ho tloha maamong a 5 le a 4, mme a se a le maamong a 3, basebetsi ba ba

ngata ba ntse ba le hae, mme ha ba tsebe hore na ba kgutlela mesebetsing neng. Taba e nngwe hape e ba tsietsang ke phumantsho ya tjelele ya UIF ya COVID-19 nakong eo ba ntseng ba dutse hae. Ba lla ka hore boramesebetsi ha ba lefe basebetsi bohle ba lokelwang ke ho fumana tjelele ena ya UIF e ikgethang maemo ana.

Ho bonahetse peherkano e kgolo le ho sa kgotsofala hara basebetsi ba bangata ba difeme ka tjelele ya UIF e kgethang nku ka pere kapa e tlang ka diqonwana. Basebetsi ba lla hape ka hore ha ho tlhaloso e ntle ho tswa ho boramesebetsi ba bang hore tihiso ya tefo ya tjelele ena e bakwa ke eng.

Sena se tliša pelaelo ya hore boramesebetsi ha ba sebetse ditaba ka tsela e molaong mme e ka nna ya eba ho na le matshwepene a etswang ke boramesebetsi.

Femeng e nngwe Thaba Nchu, Bonvoyage-Lesidi Aluminium, basebetsi ba ile ba phutheha ho tla femeng ho tla fumana tlahloso ya ho sa lefshwe ha tjelele ya UIF COVID-19 kapa tihiso ya tefo. Ba boletse ha boholo ba bona ba e so ho fumane tjelele ya Mmesa. Ke batho ba mmalwa feela ho basebetsi ka bang 300 ba fumaneng tjelele.

Motsamaisi wa feme, Monghadi Johan Botha, o hlalositse ha a ile a tsamaisa dikopo tsohle tsa tjelele ya UIF. O re sethatong ho ile ha lefuwa batho ba 4 feela.

O hlalositse ha mathata a mang a ho se lefe tjelele ena e le hobane basebetsi ba bang ba fane ka tlhahisolesding e sa nepahalang, jwaloka *di-bank accounts*, mabitso a fosahetseng kapa mabitso a fetohileng ka lebaka la ho nyalwa esita le ho tsamaya butle ha tshebetsu ya tefo ya tjelele ena.

*Di-shop stewards* le botsamaisi ba union ya SACTWU, bo neng bo emetswe ke Monghadi Motlatsi John Mofokeng, ba ile ba dumellana ka ho shebisisa le ho lokisa diphoso tsohle tse hlahellang diforomong le ho di kenya hape botjha. Ba ile ba dumellana ka hore bsebetse ba tla nne ba kgutlele mesebetsing ka diqonwana ha ba ntse ba emetse tjelele ya Mmesa ya COVID-19 UIF.

Monghadi Botha o tswetse pele ka hore bona jwaloka feme ba ntse ba sa sebetse ka basebetsi kaofela mme ba tla eketsa basebetsi hanyane-hanyane ho tla mesebetsing ho latela dipeelo tsa molao. O boetse a hlalosa hore basebetsi ba sebetse femeng ba ngodisitswe kaofela. Empa basebetsi ha ba dumele tlhaloso ena

Matsatsi kamora' kopano ena basebetsi ba llile ka hore dintho di fetohile – ha ho tjelele e lefuweng, mme hape basebetsi ba ntse ba bitswa ka lengene le ka bonngwe ho theohela. Tsena ba re di etswa ka ntle le tumellano tseo ba di fihletseng le monga feme mmoho le Monghadi Mofokeng.

### Leila Khaled

ليلى خالد



There are many notable women around the world whose contribution in changing the course of the world politics and history is unquestionable. Generations upon generations of these kind of women emerged throughout centuries among many nations of the world.

Leila Khaled, a respected member of PFLP, Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine and a symbol of Palestinian struggle, has over the years fought against Israeli's atrocities against the Palestinian people, is part of this legion of women who many have given up their lives to fight prejudice and injustice.



Iconic picture of young Khaled with an AK-47

A decorated freedom fighter and respected stateswoman, Khaled made history in 1969 when she became involved in hijacking of a plane that was supposed to be carrying an Israeli politician, Yitzhak Rabin. The Trans World Airlines, TWA Flight 840 was flying from Rome, Italy to Tel Aviv in Israel when Khaled and Salim Issawi hijacked it to Syria with 127 people on board.

Khaled is recognised all over the world for her campaign against Israel's occupation of Palestine. She is a firm believer in socialism, and often in some of her addresses takes swipe at capitalism.

ليلى خالد, remains true to her cause as the matriarch of the Palestinian struggle.

A bleak future faces Mangaung business community in the face due to the Covid-19 pandemic. This has already been noticeable during the two earlier levels of the nation-wide lockdown. The local economy has weakened, and continues to spiral downwards. This is according to Black Management Forum Chairperson of Bloemfontein branch, Mr. David Uwah (pictured) in a statement issued recently.

According to Uwah the Free State economy suffered post the 2008 global financial meltdown, this, he says affected informal businesses and the SMMEs thereby further increasing the unemployment rate in the province.



### SMMEs and informal traders hardest hit

The 2020 outbreak of the COVID-19 and the government implementation of lockdown, i.e. stay at home policy has further dented the economy of the province and further driven more and more unemployed people to the streets.

Informal traders who depend on day to day income are seriously affected. Businesses have laid off people and some have some of their staff work from home. This condition will during

this period certainly introduce self-help and online systems, as well as making social distancing for clients and customers relatively effective.

Uwah says in any economy, the stagnation of the production line, workforce and lack of capital creation, would lead to economic downturn. He argues, the Free State economy, with Bloemfontein being the capital and commercial hub, would further suffer as workers stay at home, businesses close, people not spending money

as much as they used to.

"This will further cause many businesses fail to pay taxes, thus rendering government unable to generate revenue."

He says the worse hit sectors are the SMMEs and informal traders.

"As government eases down on the lockdown, to level 3, with social distancing still in place, business is accepting fewer clients and customers, and therefore not making as much as they used to make. This means the economy will continue to suffer and further plunge the country into recession." He said.

Parliament condemns Gender Based Violence  
Read inside.  
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## Dingaka tsa setso di fumantshwa thupelo ya COVID-19

Sewa SA covid-19 se bopile kopano ya dibopeho tsohle setjhabeng ka hara naha. Ka bonngwe kapa ka kopanelo batho le dibopeho le mekgahlo ya setjhaba di kopane ho lwantsha leuba la COVID-19 naheng ya Afrika Borwa le lefatshe ka bophara. Bohle ba sebetsa ka thata ho thibela ho ata ha lefu lena le ho utlwisisa motso wa lona esita le ho fumana thibelo ya moshwelella (*vaccination*) ya ho kenwa ke lefu lena.

Dingaka tsa setso di bapala karolo ya bohlokwa ka hara naha ya rona mabapi le kalafo le dintlha tse ding tse amang bophelo bo botle setjhabeng. E ne e tla ba taba e sa amoheleng ha eba ba ne ba tla itsheka thajana mosebetsing ona o moholo wa setjhaba. Ho a thabisa ke hona ho bona ba sa salla morao boipiletsong ba ho lwantsha sewa sena. Kahoo dingaka tsa setso Botshabelo di ile tsa ipokeletsa boetapeleng ba Mme 'Mamoya Rakauoane, mme ba kopana sepetleng sa sedika sa Botshabelo ho fumantshwa tlhahisoleseding le thupelo ka COVID-19.

Rakauoane o hlalositse ha ho hloka hore dingaka di ikamahanya le mohoo ona hobane ba kopana le ho sebetsa le batho letsatsi le tshabang le le dikelang. O itse: "Re lokela ho lokisa dibaka tseo re hlahlobelang le ho phekoa bakudi ba rona ho tsona mme re ikamahanye le

dipehelo tse behilweng tsa polokeho le tse kgaolang tshwaetsano ho rona le bakudi ba rona."

Ho ile ha tshwarwa thupelo ya letsatsi e neng e kenyeleditse hara tse ding: tlhaloso ya mefuta e itseng ya dikokwanahlolo le ka moo di kenang bathong le ho baka mafu a itseng. Mookamedi wa dikliniki (Primary Healthcare) tsa Botshabelo, Monghadi Tlopo Koalepe o ile a hlalosa dingaka ha batsi ka kokwanahlolo ya *corona* le kamoo e fetelang ho motho e mong ho tswa ho e mong.

Thupelo e ile ya kenyeletsa hape mekgwa ya ho thibela le phethisetso ya kokwanahlolo ho tswa ho motho e mong ho



Mong. Tlopo Koalepe o beha taba nakong ya kopano ya hae le dingaka tsa setso.

ya ho e mong. Koalepe o itse: "Taba ya bohlokwa eo re tshwanetseng ho e tseba re le setjhaba ke hore kokwanahlolo ena e teng, empa re ke ke ra e bona ka mahlo hobane e nyane haholo. E kgona ho phela mothong le ho ikatisa ka ho dula moo ho leng bonojwana le mongobo, jwaloka matshwafong." Koalepe o hlalositse dingaka hore ha jwale kokwanahlolo ena ha e

na moriana o ka e bolayang. O hlalositse dingaka ka matshwao a bontshang ha motho a fumane kokwanahlolo. "Motho e mong ya fumaneng kokwanahlolo ena o hema ha boima hobane kokwanahlolo ena e hlasela matshwafong." O rialo a bontsha kamoo matshwafong a sebetsang ka teng mmeleng wa motho. O ile a bontsha ditsela kapa mekgwa eo ho ka



Mong. Itumeleng Makoloane o nehelana ka sanitiser ho dingaka tsa setso.

itshireletswang ka yona le ho thibela ho ata ha kokwanahlolo, ho kenyeleditswe: ho sielana sebaka, ho hlapa matsoho kgafetsa ka sesepa kapa ho sebedisa *sanitizer*, ho kwahela molomo kapa nko ka bokahare ba setsu ha o hohlela kapa ho thimola, ho sebedisa *tissue*, mme le ho e lahla ka tsela e bolokehileng ha o qeta ho

e sebedisa.

Thupelo e ile ya kenyeletsa le matshwao a bontshang ho ba le kokwanahlolo: Ho ba le motjheso o phahameng ho feta tekano, ho hohlela ho ommeng, mokgathala, qoqotho e bohloko le ho opelwa ke hlooho. Matshwao a mang a bontshang kgatelopele ya tlhaselo ya kokwanahlolo ke ho hema ka thata, mahlaba sefubeng le ho sitwa ho bua le ho tsamaya ka bolokolohi. Matshwao a ho kenwa ke kokwanahlolo a ka bonahala matsatsing a 4 ho isa ho a 5, empa nako e nngwe ho ka nka matsatsi a 15 ho iponahatsa ha matshwao a ho kenwa ke kokwanahlolo.

Monghadi Itumeleng Makoloane, mosebeletsi wa Parliamentary Constituency ya ANC, Botshabelo, o bile teng kopanong ena. O boletse ha e le taba ya bohlokwa e entsweng ke dingaka tsa setso. O re dingaka tsa setso ke karolo ya bohlokwa setjhabeng, mme ka dikamano tsa bona le setjhaba ba ka thusa haholo seweng sena. O re sena ba ka se etsa feela ha ba na le lesedi le phethahetseng ka kokwanahlolo ena. O ile a nehelana ka *sanitizer* ho dingaka e le karolo ya letsholo la ho lwantsha lefu la COVID-19.

**Hopola, ha o na le matshwao ana o ka ikopanya hang hang le ba ikarabelang kapa ka potlako wa letsetsa ho: 0800 029 999 kapa WhatsApp: 060 012 3456.**

## BILL MUST CONSIDER TRADITIONAL HEALERS

**CAPE TOWN.** The Select Committee on Land Reform, Environment, Mineral Resources had a joint meeting with the nine provincial legislatures and the South African Local Government Association (SALGA). The meeting received a briefing from the Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries on the National Forest Amendment Bill.

The Bill seeks to amend the National Forests Act, 1998 (Act No. 84 of 1998). The purpose of the National Forests Act, 1998, is to promote the sustainable management and development of forests, and provide for the protection of certain forests and trees. The objectives of the Bill are to:

- \*provide for clear definitions, for example, natural forests and woodlands;
- \*provide for public trusteeship of the nation's forestry resources;
- \*increase the promotion and enforcement of sustainable forest management;
- \*increase the measures provided for in the Act to control and remedy deforestation.

The meeting welcomed the report, but expressed concern on areas not addressed in the Bill. For example, the Constitution respects traditional beliefs. Therefore, the Bill needs to consider these to allow traditional healers to do their work. The inclusion of stakeholders, such as traditional leaders and healers, must be clearly specified in the Bill. Forests on traditional land need must also be addressed in the amendments, in addition to how healers should function.

Furthermore, people with disabilities must be included in the Bill. Young people and woman are mentioned, but it is equally important to include people with disabilities.

In addition, to contribute to development, the Bill must position rural constituencies in line with community forests. Regarding forest officers, the select committee said it must be given an opportunity to see the powers of these officers.

The meeting welcomed the proposed amendments stipulating that there will be no prospective mining in forests, which is long overdue. However, the crucial importance of public participation in processing the Bill was raised, so that Parliament is not found wanting with the law.

Committee members were given an opportunity to make further submissions on the Bill.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENTARY COMMUNICATION SERVICES PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA, CAPE TOWN**



Baahi ba ba ngata ba di-trust tse ka borwa ho Thaba Nchu ba fumana ditshebeletso tsa mantlha tsa bophelo bo botle tliiniking ya Phetogo e motseng wa Gladstone.

Ba bang ba tsamaya sebaka se se lele ka maoto ho ya tliiniking ho fumana pheko kapa ho phaka meriana. Ba sebedisang dipalangwang tsa setjhaba ba lokela ho tsoha ka meso kapa ho emela dipalangwang nako e telele. Ba hlalosa hore ho batho ba dulang hole

## Phetogo - tshepo ya bophelo botle ho baahi

le tliiniki, ba lokela ho behella letsatsi lohle ka thoko bakeng sa ho ya tliiniking ho fumana thuso.

Le ha ho le jwalo baahi ba thabela boteng ba tliiniki ena eo e leng dilemo-lemo e sebetsa motseng wa Gladstone.

E mong wa baetapele mme e le moahi wa kgale motseng ona, Monghadi David Sekee (*setshwantshong*), o hlalosa bohlokwa ba tliiniki motseng ona: "Ke hlahile ka selemo sa 1964, mme ke hotse ke tlišwa tliiniking ena eo moaho wa yona wa mantlha o ntseng o eme le kajeno. E bohlokwa

haholo ho baahi ba Gladstone le ba metse e meng e mabapi ka borwa ho toropo ya Thaba Nchu. Ke yona feela e nehelana ka ditshebeletso tse hlokaalang tsa mantlha tsa bophelo bo botle metseng ena."

Sekee o re toro ya bona ke ho bona kamoso e ka sebaka sena se ka fetolwa, sa ntlafatswa le ho phamisetswa maemong a ho ba sepetlele se tla fana ka ditshebeletso tsa kalafo ho baahi ba motse ona le e meng e haufi. Papisong le ditliiniki tse ding tsa setjhaba le tsa poraefete



metseng ya ditoropo, ho hlakile hore tliiniki ya Phetogo jwaloka tse ding tsa mahaeng, e morao haholo ka mehlopi, e kenyeleditseng disebediswa le basebetsi ba malala-a laotswe, haholoholo hara sewa sena sa COVID-19.

Le ha boikarabelo ba ho ka ntlafatsa le ho phethahatsa toro ya baahi e itshetlehlele dibopehong tse ngatanyana tsa mmuso, baahi ba lebeletse thuso ho tswa .hohle ntlafatsong ya tliiniki.

Mohlomong Inshoreense ya Naha ya Bophelo bo Botle, National Health Insurance (NHI) ha e kenngwa tshebetsong e ka thusa ho atametsa toro ya baahi haufi le ho e phethahatsa ka hohlehole molemong wa baahi bohle mahaeng.



## NEWS FROM PARLIAMENT



Speaker-Thandi Modise

### Parliament condemns femicide and gender-based violence



Chairperson-Amos Maseko

The Presiding Officers of Parliament, led by National Assembly Speaker Ms Thandi Modise and National Council of Provinces Chairperson Mr Amos Maseko, join the mounting public outrage over the increase in femicide and gender-based violence.

Bold and resolute action, rather than outrage, however, is what our nation needs to change this shocking state of affairs in our country.

We know it has festered for too long, shielded by the veils of silence and fueled

by patriarchy and sexism. We know that ending it needs effort from sections of society, particularly men as perpetrators – in the areas where we live, the places where we work and from all private and state institutions, including our justice and criminal justice systems.

The wheels of justice must turn and be seen to turn swiftly in bringing alleged perpetrators to book and meting out appropriate (harsher) punishment to discourage the occurrence of similar offences.

But even more important, is ensuring an environment where these heinous crimes against a significant population of our

society do not even take place in the first place. The brutal and senseless killing of Ms Tshagofatso Pule, a 28-year-old whose body was found hanging from a tree with multiple stab wounds, and Ms Naledi Phangindawo, a 26-year old stabbed to death, and many others whose names are not known, underscores the urgency in which perpetrators must receive a fitting sentence that will demonstrate that such heinous crimes have no place in society.

We welcome the commitment that members of the executive, deployed across the country as part of the national effort to combat COVID-19, will also

engage communities about the increase in gender-based violence. Parliament will continue to intensify its oversight to ensure all interventions against the scourge are realized, and this include the implementation of the decisions of the Presidential Summit on Gender-Based Violence, overhaul and modernisation of the national register of gender-based violence offenders, resolving challenges relating to backlog of cases and delays in DNA testing, as well as ensuring availability of rape test kits in police stations.

As with our global co-operation to combat the Covid-19 pandemic, so, too,

let us work together, as humanity, to fight the femicide and gender-based violence still stalking our nation. Together, we can build that better world to which so many aspire, for which so many have struggled and died.

The Presiding Officers have extended their heartfelt condolences to the families of Tshagofatso Pule, Naledi Phangindawo and other victims of femicide whose names may never be known publicly.

**ISSUED BY THE PARLIAMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

## Leponesa o leboha mmuso wa ANC



**Mong. Itumeleng Makoloane le Mme Julia Leponesa le ngwana ba eme ka pela ntlo e ntjha eo Leponesa a e hahetsweng.**

O ne a tsielehile, a sa tsebe o tshwara kae kapa o tlohela kae ho fihlela mmuso o kena dipakeng ho mo thusa. Kajeno ke motho le yena hobane o na le moo a ka itshireletsang teng le ho beha hlooho ka tlasa marulelo.

Mmuso wa Foreisetata, boetapeleng ba Mme Sefora Ntombela o ile a utlwa mohoo wa maemo a nyarosang ao mme Julia Leponesa a neng a dula ho ona. Ntlo ya hae ya mobu e neng e sa tsitsa e ile ya wa mme ya ba ke bothata bo bohola ka ha o ne a se a hloka le sebaka sase phethahetseng sa tshireletso. Ke moo Monghadi Itumeleng Makoloane wa ANC Parliamentary Constituency Office, Botshabelo, a ileng a kena dipakeng ho thusa.

Mohoo wa ho batla dithuso ho ka ahela Mme Leponesa motlotlwanyana wa ho beha hlooho o ile wa fihla ho Premier ya Profensi (Foreisetata) mme ya ba Julia Leponesa o ahelwa ntlo.

Ha a leboha Mme Leponesa o itse: Ke leboha mmuso wa ANC o eteletsweng pele ke Mma-Ntombela hobane kajeno ke fumane seithireletso. Ke ne ke tsielehile ke sa tsebe seo nka se etsang mme ke sena le bokgoni ba ho ka emisa lerako ka bo-nna. Ke a leboha ruri."

Monhghadi Makoloane o re bofutsana bo iphileng matla ka hara Botshabelo bo dihile seriti sa baahi ba ba ngata. O hlalosa hore ho na le ba ba ngata ba tshwanang le Leponesa – ba hloka matlo kapa bodulo bo phethahetseng. O re maemo ao Leponesa a neng a dula ho ona a ne a nyarosa ka ha seo a neng a se bitsa ntlo e ne e le lerako le neng le ka baka tsietsi neng kapa neng. "

"E itse hoba re utlwe mohoo jwaloka ANC Parliamentary Office, ra kokota menyako yohle ho batla thuso. Mmuso o ile wa utlwa kopo ena mme wa arabela ka ho ahela Leponesa ntlo eo kajeno e kgutlisitseng seriti sa hae le ho mo fa tshireletso" Ho bolela Makoloane.

## Dithakangwaha tsa Baithaopi, Botshabelo Hospital

Ke lerato la naha ya bona le tjhesehelo ya ho sebeletsa setjhaba tse ileng tsa ba susumeletsa ho dula ba intsha sehlabelo ka nako e telele, mme se ba thabisang ke ho bona ba entse phethoho e kgolo tshebetsong ya setsi sena sa kalafo Botshabelo.

Ena ke pale ya katleho ya baithaopi ba 15 ba sepetlele sa Botshabelo bao bohola ba sebetsang jwaloka bahlwekisi (porters). E bile dilemo ba ithaopa pele ba fumana mosebetsi wa nako tsohle sepetleng sa sedika sa Botshabelo. Ba ne ba sebetsa ba sa fumane tefo ya letho. Le ha ho le jwalo ba ile ba nna ba tswella ho ithaopa. Ba ne ba na le tjhesehelo ya ho sebeletsa setjhaba ka mora ' ho lemoha ho fokola ha ditshebeletso le tshubuhlellano e neng e ba teng sepetleleng sena. ka amemo a neng a fokola a bohlweki.

Empa ka ha tiisetso e tswala katleho, ba re ka 2019 ba ile ba fumantshwa mosebetsi jwaloka basebetsi ba sepetlele ka tlasa leano la Mmuso profensing le neng le bitswa 'Hlasela'. Kajeno ba sheba morao ka motlootlo ka moo ho intsha sehlabelo ha bona ho thusitseng sepetlele ho ba maamong a ntlafetseng kajeno. Hape sena se ba thusitse ho ntlafatsa maphelo a bona

ka ha ba kgona ho kenya lethonyana ka lapeng. " Ka nako eo re ne tshwana le batho ba hirilweng. Re ne re sa *lofe*, re ne re etsa mosebetsi ka lerato. Re ne re theohela letsatsi le letsatsi". Ho bolelala Elisina Paterone." Re ne re sebetsa le mafelong a beke, mme e re ha ho hirwa batho e be re ruta batho ba hirilweng mosebetsi empa rona re le baithaopi." O tswela pela ho hlalosa.

Baithaopi bana ba mehleng ba bolela hore ba ile ba qetella ba ikopantse le Tonakgolo ya mehleng ya Profensi, Monghadi S.E. Magashule ya ileng a ba kgothatsaletsa ho nna ba tswella ho



**Ba motlotlo ka mosebetsi oo ba o etsang. Ba bang ba baithaopi ba mehleng. Bona ke: Agnes Lesenyeha, Anna Mokhema, Elisinah Paterone le Liza Mdube**

ithaopa. Qetellong ba ile ba hirwa jwaloka basebetsi ba sepetlele.

Ba re ba kgothaletsa batho ba bang ba sa sebetseng ho ithaopa e le ho bontsha lerato la naha le ho sebeletsa setjhaba ka lerato le ka boitelo. Mme ba leboha mmuso boetapeleng ba ANC ho ba sedi ka dillo le ka ditaba tse amang setjhaba, esita le ho phehella ho ntlafatsa maphelo a batho.

# AGRICULTURE

lifeblood of rural communities



Many African communities consider animals, especially a cattle, as an investment tool that has many uses in their every day lives, hence the Sesotho expression 'kgomo, modimo o nko e metsi'.

Animals like cattle, sheep, goats, horses among others are kept and used for various reasons in African communities; draught animals like cattle and (horses) are used as a means of transportation, they are also used for milk and meat, their skins (and wool from sheep and goats) for leather in garments and tools or equipment. But cattle, sheep and goats may also be used for cultural and spiritual purposes by other African people.

While urban Africans, who are relatively affluent and have largely adopted the western way of life, are moving slowly away from depending on these domesticated animals for livelihood, the rural folks are much more depending on them for subsistence.

While they also engage in

crop farming, keeping animals is far better because it is relatively easy and promises more returns than crop farming. Crops need more intensive activities and land ownership to practice, while with stock these subsistence farmers may have easy access and use of temporary grazing facilities.

For many families in the rural areas of Thaba Nchu, like Gladstone, animal husbandry is the lifeblood of their economy. It contributes to the total economy of the district and province. Many people derive their livelihood from this sector of economy in which many are 'self employed'. Many have not only built modest houses, paid children's education, but also maintain their families with proceeds from this type of activity.

Though they do not derive any meaningful commercial output from this, it is an alternative that they use to eke out a living under the circumstances. But what threatens their existence and

renders their efforts naught today, is acts of crime and lawlessness in the region. Rustlers act with impunity in robbing them of livestock they worked so hard to raise and maintain. Many farmers in Thaba Nchu area say they are helpless in the face of systems that ought to support and protect them.

While this is a way of life that has been passed from one generation to the other, and occasioned not only by choice, but directed by the erstwhile political system that deprived them of opportunities and rights, including land ownership as well. It is a situation that needs urgent attention and intervention, they say. These subsistence farmers toil under other new challenges; grazing (makgulo), improvement of stock breeds, fencing, diseases and market to sell their products are among issues they face.

Many feel assistance from public services, like security and economic cluster, comes late if it comes at all.

They deal on almost daily basis with problems of stock theft, grazing facilities, animal health issues as well as market for their stock.

The stock theft unit that is meant to serve them is based in Bloemfontein. Many maintain that the situation or arrangement is not helpful because it is far removed from them. They allege that there used to be a pound in Thaba Nchu in the past for stolen or wandering animals, but today they have to travel to a pound in Ladybrand for identification or retrieval of lost or stolen stock. This, according to many farmers, is not only an inconvenience, but it devastate them economically as well.

\*Radiboke Masianoke, a farmer in one of the southern trust remarked: "It is difficult, very difficult for us farmers because of these wanton criminal acts by these rustlers. It is an unknown phenomenon in our communities. It was peaceful and we coexisted without looking over our shoulder(s) for fear of an enemy lurking behind." Another farmer, \*Madingake Mosiapo, added: "It is difficult to raise the economy when crime is high in this area. Crime has to go down so that the economy is grown freely."

\*Not their true names.

## Bills assented to in MAY

Parliament makes laws and Executive (Government) implement or execute legislation accordingly. The Judiciary in turn applies, safeguard and enforces the law. Bills are first processed by Parliament and then send to the President for approval signature (assent to) before they are regarded as Acts. The following bills were processed and passed as laws during the month of May:

**\* Promotion of Access to Information Act 31 of 2019**

**\* Hydrographic Act 35 of 2019**

**\* Independent Police Investigative Directorate Act 27 of 2019**

**\* Child Justice Act 28 of 2019**

**\* Foreign Service Act 26 of 2019**

## Black South Africans should take ownership

'South Africa is a country alive with possibilities.' That is the famous statement former State President Thabo Mbeki, used to utter during his tenure as the President of the republic.

The former President was well aware of the opportunities and possibilities that the country has for its citizens. Prior to the Covid-19 pandemic South Africa was the second largest economy in Africa.

When Minister of finance Tito Mbweni delivered his economic recovery plan in response to Covid-19, he mentioned that South Africans should prepare for a new economy, a new economy that will prioritize its citizens and place them in the forefront of economic growth. He went further to say that all Spaza shops in townships should have valid business bank account and must be registered on the CIPC database. This alluded to the fact that the finance minister must have been aware of the potential township economy has to contribute to the GDP. It is worth mentioning that the township economy is worth millions of rands, and within this economy lies an ocean of opportunities that still have to be exploited.

Black South Africans need to take full advantage of the new economy that

we are currently heading to. We need to take ownership of our township economy, and make it work for us.

The finance minister needs to guarantee frameworks that will protect and advance our economic aspirations. Lately, 70% of all spaza shops in townships and informal settlements are owned and controlled by foreign nationals, greater percentage of shops and restaurants in CBD's are also owned and controlled by foreign nationals. This means that the circulation of money does not go back to people who buy most (townships), and it further means less tax is paid to government in many cases.

Our people need to be ready and willing to take ownership of new approaching economic trajectory. We cannot be left behind and be spectators in own country. This can only be done if we empower ourselves and become economically conscious.

"A race that does not buy or trade among its people will also be slaves to other races", this quote by Chika Onyeani should always serve as a reminder to our people that a race without any economic power will also be at the bottom on the food chain.

*Written by Neo Khumisi in his own capacity as social observer*

## End workers' salary cuts and stop retrenchments - urges SACP

The SACP in Free State cautions various industries in the Sasolburg Industrial Complex to desist from coercing workers and unduly cutting their hard-earned salaries, under the so called "voluntary salary sacrifices". No worker can willingly agree to cut their already meagre salaries, under the given exploitative employment conditions and poor socio-economic reality facing South African workers.



Bheke Stofile, SACP Provincial Secretary, FS

Furthermore, the SACP warns and implore Omnia company to abruptly stop their "carrot and stick" tactic of enticing workers to take voluntary early retirement whilst, at the same time, initiating a Section 189 targeting the workers for retrenchment. The Section 189 process must stop, and alternative options must be considered, following a transparent process inclusive of labour. The global pandemic occasioned by the novel corona virus, Covid-19 is not a ticket for owners of industry to fire workers. Before Covid-19, workers toiled under exploitative conditions and bosses consistently extracted surplus value out of the workers in productive activities and smiled all the

way to the banks, without any share to the workers. In our interaction with workers and Union leaders from different companies, we have learned that almost all companies in the industrial complex have varyingly moved to undertake salary cuts, forced some workers to take leave, sacrificed pension contributions, enforced reduced work days and encourage early retirements. Some companies have decided already that workers will get no salary increases, let alone bonuses. These amount to an unrestrained and outright assault against the workers- it cannot be tolerated.

The SACP calls on Union leadership across the spectrum, to be at the forefront, engaging and working with workers across affiliation in all industries, to confront this dire situation facing the workers. Without concerted worker efforts, the capitalists will- in line with their greed-continue to squeeze the workers more and more.

Now that industries are impacted by Covid-19, bosses are forcing workers to share and shoulder the economic difficulties in a manner that maintains profitability for bosses while kicking workers out of their gates. These companies are insensitive, acting as if Covid-19 has not affected the socio-economic conditions of the workers.

The SACP in Free State stands ready, to join efforts with the workers to fight against these injustices, within the constraints of the lockdown regulations. It would be dereliction of our political and revolutionary duty to remain locked down when the class whose interests the SACP represents is being locked out.

Moreover, the SACP call on all industries in the Sasolburg industrial cluster to provide and replenish the necessary personal protective equipment (PPE) for workers against Covid-19. A single issue of PPE may not be sufficient given the nature of work, and if not replenished, may exposes workers to undue risks of the infectious Covid-19. The SACP urge workers to outrightly refuse to work under unsafe working environment.

SACP in Free State also plead with Union leadership to consolidate worker unity and unapologetically take up the economic assault and daily shop floor struggles of workers to the door steps of the bosses, during these times of Covid-19. In this regard, the SACP pledge to join efforts with Unions and workers. The SACP will further explore, working with Unions, means to engage Department of Labour and Employment to pay special attention to the Sasolburg industrial complex, and scrutinise the actions of various industries and investigate their compliance with lockdown rules as production activities resume. The SACP will further engage the Local and District municipalities to also pay attention to the industrial complex, all other commercial activities in the area, including ensuring that their own municipal workers are properly equipped and protected during these times of Covid-19

**ISSUED BY THE SACP FREE STATE, CONTACT:** Bheke Stofile – SACP Free State Provincial Secretary Mobile: 071 600 4899

# End Israeli occupation of Palestinian land

The Israel occupation of Palestine has gone on for decades with few countries of the world and forthright and honest world leaders speaking out against the inhuman system of apartheid meted against the Palestinian people by Israel.

For decades it has gone on unabatedly, even today **'apartheid israel'** for the of Palestine, who today are poised to lose another part of the land of their birth with yet another US sponsored annexation tricks. Thankfully, the Palestinian people cannot be duped into this deal which will subject them to further denial of citizenship and ownership of the land of their birth.

Many organizations, world-wide, support the liberation of Palestine from Israel, the South Africa Communist Party, SACP, has for decades stood side by side with the people of Palestine. Once more, this year as the struggle of the Palestinian people against Israeli occupation of their land continues, spanning over 50 years, the SACP remains consistent and steadfast with her resolve to support the Palestinian liberation. Here follows the statement of the Party in support of the struggle of the Palestinian people:

The South African Communist Party (SACP) unwaveringly stands with the people of Palestine in their struggle for the fundamental right to self-determination. The SACP fully supports the intensification of the just cause to end the apartheid Israeli occupation of Palestinian land. Our next step is to upgrade our programme of action focusing more on strengthening international solidarity,

democratic and peaceful activities in support of the oppressed Palestinian people.

In the same vein, the SACP calls upon the African Union to demonstrably express active solidarity with the oppressed people of Palestine, by adopting and implementing a programme of action to support their just struggle for democratic national sovereignty. The programme should include the objectives of the global Boycott, Sanctions and Divestment (BDS) movement against the apartheid regime of Israel. As a starting point, imports of Israeli products produced from occupied Palestinian territories should completely be prohibited on our continent, as a sign of continental unity and clear message of solidarity with the oppressed and expropriated people of Palestine.

The SACP is appealing to all democratic governments of the world to protect and cherish the fundamental right to life, by assisting the Palestinian authority with health-care and personal protective equipment, medicine and treatment, as well as other forms of active and material support in the fight to contain the spread of coronavirus (Covid-19). The inhumane Trump administration of the United States (U.S.) used the Covid-19 global public health emergency as an opportunity to forge the so-called deal of the century concluded with the apartheid regime of Israel at the expense of the marginalised Palestinian people. The visit by the U.S. secretary of state to Israel on Wednesday, 13 May 2020, included a focus on imposing the U.S-Israeli collusive agenda on the Palestinian people and

furtherance of destabilisation in the Middle East, including targeting of Iran, among others.

The U.S-Israeli agenda entails a plan to annex one-third of the West Bank and, between now and July 2020, the Jordan Valley, a fertile strip of Palestinian land stretching from the north of the Dead Sea along the eastern perimeter of the West Bank. The Jordan Valley borders Jordan. The expansion of the U.S. imperialist-backed colonial type occupation and apartheid domination of Palestine by Israel is destined for locking out and achieving control of access to Palestine.

Unveiled on 28 January 2020 in a White House press briefing by the dramatic, right-wing populist U.S. president Donald Trump and his counterpart, Israeli prime minister Benjamin Netanyahu, the "deal of the century" is nothing but a U.S. imperialist-backed Israeli apartheid **Fraud of the Century**. Its real aim is to deepen the colonial type subjugation, oppression and exploitation of the Palestinian people, expropriation of their land, and its occupation by Israel. This is the complete opposite of the purported "Peace to Prosperity: A Vision to Improve the Lives of the Palestinian and Israeli People". The world's voices and actions for the reinstatement of Palestine's sovereignty and its people's right to self-determination must be deepened and widened.

It is high time that the United Nations applied real pressure on these international criminals and forced them to abide by international law! Peaceful resolution to the Palestinian question must also be bound up with justice. This requires safeguarding the right of return for all Palestinians who were

forced out of their land, reparations for land occupation and lost property, and international prosecution of the leaders and operatives of successive apartheid Israeli regimes for the crime against humanity.

Over the decades, the people of Palestine have genuinely abided by all international agreements and well-meaning compromises for the peaceful resolution of the conflict caused by Israel. On the other hand, successive Israeli apartheid regimes have relentlessly violated all the international agreements, additionally intensifying illegal construction of Israeli settlements on Palestinian land. The wanton violation of human rights by Israel, also characterised by the arrest and torture of children in complete disregard of numerous United Nations resolutions, must strongly be condemned by all peace-loving people of the world.

The U.S. remains the chief automatic supporter and enabler of the injustice committed by Israel against the people of Palestine. The imperialist regime of the U.S. used its Security Council veto power 43 times for a half-century, between 1967 and 2017, in support of the Israeli injustice perpetrated against the Palestinian people. The injustice includes actions that resulted in the murder of Palestinians. The U.S. has also protected Israel from international accountability. In addition, the imperialist regime has armed Israel militarily and otherwise against Palestinians and other states. The U.S., therefore, is not part of a solution to the crisis. It is a major Israel ally and part and parcel of the primary problem in the subjugation of Palestinians.

## SACP Centenary Series

The South African Communist Party, SACP will be 100 years next year, 2021. For this reason we present exclusive material from various of sources, ranging from members of the Party, progressive organisations and aligned trade unions, to the working class community in general. Here follows the first part of the series leading to the centenary celebration next year:

### Reflections, Urgent Tasks towards the Centenary and Ideological Bases of the Party's Existence - by Siza Mtolo

#### Introduction

The SACP (CPSA) was born in 1921 on the eve of the October revolution. The backdrop of the October revolution meant that the current Bolshevism emerged and has continued to be the major socialist current of the democratic and left forces in country.

Starting mainly as a white party, it soon underwent a process of its Africanisation with 1928 being a nodal point of this process. By this time not only was the party predominantly African, it had also recast its strategic appreciation of the South African question. It came through the 'Black Republic Thesis' to understand the centrality of the national question as a fundamental aspect of the class question that the party sought to resolve.

At its birth the SACP (CPSA) has ascribed as its ideological position to the Marxist - Leninist school/perspective. By ascribing to Marxist-Leninist school – the party was locating itself as a revolutionary party with in 1919,

motivated by, and in the direct aftermath of the 1917 Bolshevism Revolution.

The Party saw itself as ideological party, different from broader, ideologically more loose, movement-like parties which were more reformist like the social democratic/ labor parties.

To maintain the ideological and organizational unity, the SACP (CPSA) applied democratic centralism, this meant that while debate and participation by general membership was encouraged, once programmatic decisions had been taken, disciplined loyalty was required. This in theory meant that, at least, factions and caucuses within the party were not allowed. These were the founding, principles of the SACP (CPSA), and it was these principles that, in the decade and half after its launch in 1921 came to be known as 'Marxist-Leninist'. The party continues to believe in the fundamental strength of each of these founding principles. But, we

have also always believed in the necessity of a continuous interaction between theory and practice.

Let us revitalize our branches of our South African Communist Party. Because we believe that;

\*Mankind can never attain real freedom until a society has been built in which no person has the freedom to exploit and oppress another.

\*The bulk of humanity's resources will never be used for the good of humanity until they are in public ownership and under democratic control.

\*The all-round development of the individual and the creation of opportunities for every person to express his or her talents to the full can only find ultimate expression in a society which dictates itself to people as opposed to profit.

"Socialism is a transitional social system between capitalism (and other systems based on class oppression and exploitation) and a

fully classless, communist society. Socialism requires working class hegemony, and it is characterized by four core features: democracy, equality, freedom, and the socialization of the predominant part of the economy" **SACP Strategic Perspectives**, 1995, p13-14.

As communists we have taken a side of the working class in this social conflict. As Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels put it in the *Communist Manifesto* that:

*"The Communists do not form a separate party opposed to the other working-class parties. They have no interests separate and apart from those of the proletariat as a whole. They do not set up any sectarian principles of their own, by which to shape and mold the proletarian movement...The Communists, therefore, are on the one hand practically, the most advanced and resolute section of the working-class parties of every country, that section which pushes forward all others; on the other hand, theoretically, they have over the great mass of the proletariat the advantage of clearly understanding the lines of march, the conditions, and the ultimate general results of the proletarian movement".*

Let us restate these basic tenets of Marxism-Leninism, our ideology, to demonstrate and remind ourselves about the importance of communist consciousness and organization.

The world we live in today continues to be dominated by the sway of capitalism. Capitalist globalization is the most unequal economic formation; widening the gap between the rich and the poor within and among peoples of the world. The present pandemic Corona Virus 19 once more, confirms the unequalness and unfairness of the Capitalist globalization. The anarchy and crisis of capitalism has plunged the world economy into volatility. 12.

In the recent past imperialist aggressiveness has grown in all sectors: the economy, working relations, social policy, the political system, ideology and culture.

The ANC Government has, in the past 26 years, promulgated and implemented a progressive constitutional and social policy regime on areas such as social security, labour laws and basic services. The challenges of riding of our country social ills such poverty, unemployment, disease, skills crisis and underdevelopment persist though. The continuing capitalist accumulation regime circumscribes and contradicts the reconstruction and development that has been unfolding since 1994. Capitalists have proven very difficult to be relied upon.

Continues in the next edition

**"Socialism is the Future, Build it Now"**

## Humility and respect for science

key ingredients in handling the COVID-19 pandemic

By Mike Bruton

The way in which the COVID-19 pandemic has been handled has thrown into perspective the effectiveness of different governance styles.

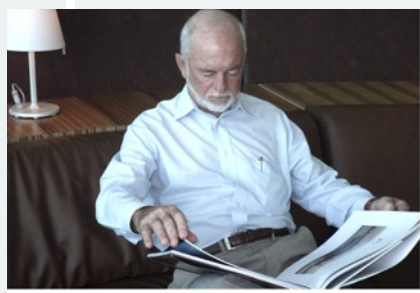
Whereas some leaders, such as Trump in the USA, Bolsonaro in Brazil and Magufuli in Tanzania, all males, regard the pandemic as the equivalent of a war that must be fought using top-down authoritarian tactics, others, including President Cyril Ramaphosa, have adopted a more consultative and scientific approach with far greater success.

An interesting trend is that countries with female leaders, such as Denmark, Finland, Germany, Iceland, New Zealand and Norway, have been more effective at handling the COVID-19 crisis than most countries led by men. Research has revealed that the characteristics shared by women leaders, such as patience, resilience, pragmatism, benevolence, trust in collective common sense and humility, have contributed to their success.

The researchers also found that countries led by women tend to be societies in which there is a greater presence of females in positions of power in all sectors. They argue that the greater involvement of women results in a broader perspective on the crisis and paves the way for the deployment of richer and more complete solutions than if they had been imagined by an homogeneous

group of men.

Humility and respect for science are key ingredients in the handling of a health crisis. It could be argued that female leaders are more likely to be sceptical and less likely to be dogmatic and opinionated, like some authoritarian male leaders. Sahle-Work Zewde, President of Ethiopia, is currently the only female out of the 54 presidents in Africa. Is this good for



**Professor Mike Bruton, writer and researcher, never tires in seeking knowledge**

the continent? Although South Africa has never had a female president, except for Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri who was President for 14 hours in September 2008, we have a good representation of women in cabinet and other senior decision-making positions. Our response to the COVID-19 crisis has, on the whole, been excellent, with wide consultation at all levels of society and a strong respect for scientific opinion.

African health officials have had the benefit of their prior experience dealing with Ebola and MERS in handling the COVID-19 outbreak. They have also avoided the 'authoritarian trap' by quickly disclosing the extent of

the disease outbreak and communicating information and advice to their citizens so that there can be a joint effort in combatting it.

The pandemic has, however, highlighted the different attitudes that leaders have towards science. While medicinal remedies derived from indigenous knowledge have been widely and successfully applied in Africa, there is no known cure for COVID-19 based on them. In April 2020 Andry Rajoelina, President of Madagascar, announced the launch of a herbal potion that he believes prevents and cures patients suffering from the disease.

The drug, COVID-Organics (CVO), contains extracts from sweet wormwood, a plant that has proven efficacy against malaria but no proven effect against COVID-19. The leaders of Tanzania, Equatorial Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Comoros and the Republic of the Congo have all reportedly placed orders for CVO.

Respect for science, and a healthy dose of humility, are key ingredients in dealing with the complex medical and socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Let's approach the crisis in the spirit of harambee, 'all pull together'.

*Professor Mike Bruton is a science writer and imagineer based in Cape Town. To find out more go to: [www.mikebruton.co.za](http://www.mikebruton.co.za)*

## COMMENT

Our country has entered a critical phase in the campaign against Covid 19. Many more people have contracted the disease and more are dying.



*Lechesa Tsenoli*

We appeal to all citizens - all of us, to remain vigilant to avoid more tragedies as well as the overwhelming of our health facilities and people infrastructure!

The pandemic will pass but we have to dramatically reduce the negative social and economic impacts we are already experiencing.

The public service needs to up its effectiveness, its responsiveness, its caring potential and draw on its creativity to deal with the crises we are facing.

Technology can be abused to advance the interests of a few, but it also has the potential to meet people's needs considerably, including the National Health Insurance, that is our best bet for universal health coverage.

We call on the state, our government in particular to urgently improve collaboration and cooperation of public sector first, and with private sector - business, community organisations and NGOs to close the telecommunication infrastructure gap in the country. To extend coverage of the entire country, stabilize connectivity, bring down further the cost of data, ramp up skill building campaigns to improve the quality of post Covid 19 recovery.

Telkom leadership for example, believes, it is

possible to introduce a system that strengthens integration cooperation of wireless, satellite, fiber and landlines. What's delaying us?

The district development model is an excellent platform to work together in, through the integrated development plans to accelerate all our key priority programs.

An aggressive campaign to promote safety of the community, employment initiatives, better educational outcomes and provision of infrastructure that is regularly maintained as suggested, is key in each metropolitan and district area.

These efforts are urgent to address the horrible levels of poverty, inequality and unemployment, dramatized by the Covid 19 and the necessary lockdown imposed to contain the spread of this pandemic.

The dangerous and unacceptable levels of gender based violence, literally worsened the crises people were already facing.

We need to act urgently, differently for the sake of the people!

## Quo vadis, Democracy in SA?

South Africa is lauded as one of Africa's most developed countries, both in terms of economy and in its political management. While there are strong emerging economies on the continent South Africa has the biggest economy after Nigeria, with Egypt trailing behind. It can be argued therefore that it (South Africa) is relatively in the right economic trajectory.

But this may not be as easy with her inter-political relationships and management thereof. This may be attributed to kaleidoscope of political sceneries provided for by the Constitution. This makes things pretty much unpredictable.

Arguably, its success of embracing constitutional democracy has catapulted her on the world stage, thanks to many South Africans, and the people of the world who fought for freedom, peace and equality for the country. And of course, not forgetting the infectious influence of our world renown statesman, Nelson Mandela.

The maturity of approach that the South African people, under the leadership of the ANC and its alliance partners demonstrated during the transitional period up to the adoption of the new democratic Constitution, and the holding of the first democratic elections, attracted attention of the world. Many looked with keen interest- scepticism and great awe how South African people would dislodge the centuries old colonial establishment, to march forward to transform it into modern constitutional democratic system etched in human rights.

This was in an anticipated comparison to many of newly established democratic rules elsewhere on the continent and in world. Many thought that the newly gained democracy will fail. It continues to grow - now, towards the third decade of presenting South Africans, the continent and the world with one of the best constitutional democracy, seldom experienced by many countries in the world.

The constitutional Court is the custodian of the Constitution which guarantees citizens their rights.

The New Nation Movement is a body of citizens who enjoy rights that are protected by the Constitution. They acted within their rights when they challenged the constitutionality of the Electoral Act, and the Constitutional Court (operating in conditions of democracy) made a ruling.

The country is in the state of democratic development and the ruling of the court entrenches constitutional democracy further. In every phase of development questions arise about what changes will bring or will not bring. Equally, in stagnation, questions are asked too.

The questions that come as a result of the ruling of the Constitutional Court will only be fully answered when the change brought by the ruling takes effect. For now, South Africa stand at the crossroad of Parliamentary process regarding legislating on the matter and the practical implementation of the change. What value will the amended system bring or fail to add, we can only ponder: *Where are you going to, Democracy in South Africa?* (See Parliament's reaction to the Constitutional Court's ruling, p.8)

# World Summit of Local & Regional Leaders

## SENTINELS OF DREAMS

*Local and regional leaders are central in ensuring coherence of ideas and concrete plans in how to advance and maintain sustainable world through inter alia dialogue, research and innovative ideas. The World Summit is part of the instruments used in this regard.*

*Towards the end of last year, 2019, world leaders on local and regional spheres gathered in Durban, South Africa for the 2019 World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders. Fabrizio Hochschild, Special Advisor to the Secretary General of the United Nations, António Guterres, spoke to the representatives of countries from all over the world at the summit. Here follows his address:*

“Sanibonani”

It is a great pleasure to join you for the 2019 World Summit of Local and Regional Leaders.

You are at the vanguard of harnessing global opportunities and managing global risks. You pioneer solutions to meet your communities' hopes and needs. Your tasks are growing greater and more complex.

Our world today is marked by profound transitions. Last Saturday marked three decades since the fall of the Berlin Wall and the end of the Cold war. Perhaps the greatest harbinger of the promise of the new era was 5 years later the end of apartheid and the democratic transition here in South Africa. Twenty five years on, now geopolitics are back with a vengeance, as shifting global power relations fuel uncertainty across the globe. We are seeing a resurgence of rivalry between the world's largest economies, but also increased polarization at the regional and national levels. Political establishments are questioned and polarization and popular discontent in many places is on the rise.

Shifting global power relations causes global uncertainty and shifting alliances. The result is what some have referred to as a “new world disorder”.

One could imagine that at a time of such uncertainty, a logical response would be to reinforce the multilateral order and international law as a means of having some compass with which to chart the way forward amidst the many threats and unknowns. But

arguably, the opposite is happening.

In effect, we are facing a fundamental Guterres, has referred to it as an “absurdity” between an increase in global challenges to citizens everywhere, and a retreat from the institutions that can pursue global solutions. The climate crisis, rising inequality, protracted conflict, migration and displacement, and the rapid changes in demography and technology will require effective cooperation across borders, sectors and generations. Failure to do so will have far-reaching consequences for the welfare of our children and grandchildren — and of our planet itself.

This is particularly obvious when it comes to climate change. This is the defining issue of our time — and we are at a defining moment. Last autumn, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change issued a warning: we have just 11 years left to limit global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees. We are already seeing the effects around us of our inadequate action: heat waves in Europe, drought in much of Africa, storms in Africa and the Caribbean, and violent typhoons and earthquakes in Asia. Last year, an estimated 17.2 million people were newly displaced within their own countries as a result of disasters. These numbers will grow exponentially without more energetic measures.

Displacement, of course, is only one demographic trend we need to manage. We are also facing huge changes in the age composition of our population — a second megatrend. Today's youth generation is the largest in the history of the world. Between now and 2030, half the global population will be under 30. In Africa by 2050 one billion people will be under 18. Will we manage to take advantage of this by providing sufficient jobs?

At the same time in a number of countries, we have shrinking populations and an unprecedented proportion of elderly, who in turn are living longer. What changes do we need to in our societies and economies to manage these demographic transitions?

And how can we tackle, a third megatrend, the scourge of our time growing inequality — on the rise both between and within many countries? It is a significant contributor to the growing

disconnect and distrust that people feel towards governments and other institutions.

There are more and more super rich while poor remain vulnerable. Globally, in 2000 there were around 200 to 300 billionaires. Today, there are more than 2000. Last year, Oxfam reported that the world's richest 26 people now own as much wealth as the 3.7 billion the poorer half of humanity. Meanwhile, over the same period, lower-level wage earners have seen their salaries decline or remain stagnant in real terms in most countries. How do we prioritise addressing these long-term, systemic issues alongside, say, the rise in new forms of violence — a fourth megatrend?

Armed conflicts seem to be growing more entrenched and complex — in Syria, for instance, thousands of armed groups are now thought to be active. Violent deaths outside conflict are growing too. According to the UN office for drugs and crime, last year, some 464,000 people across the world were killed in homicides — far more than the 89,000 killed due to war.

And then there is the disruption of new technologies a fifth megatrend. New technologies are spreading at unprecedented speed and hold great promise but also pose risks: to our security, privacy and democracy; to the world of work and to social cohesion. Are our institutions ready to manage these changes? How can we build a safe future for our children in the 21st century if our institutions and solutions are stuck in the 20th century?

Of all these “mega trends”, urbanization is arguably the most certain. Today, just over 50 per cent of the world's population live in towns and cities, in Africa just over thirty per cent. By 2050 that will rise to almost 70 per cent and much of it will take place in Asia and Africa, where the urban population will more than double. Despite the fact that urban growth is unavoidable, much of this growth will be unmanaged. Moreover the principle arena in which the megatrends I mentioned will play out will be cities.

At present, cities occupy less than 2 per cent of the world's total land but produce over 70 per cent of carbon emissions. The many cities situated close to the ocean will be the first to be affected by rising sea levels. Just

today you saw what is happening in Venice with flooding due to climate change. Cities are also the locus of growing inequalities. They generate around 80 per cent of global GDP but are home to nearly one billion people classified as “urban poor”, often unemployed youth. And not unrelated to this, violence is also becoming an increasingly urban phenomena.

How these trends are managed will have profound — even existential — consequences for our world and for humanity. In light of these trends and threats to mark the 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary of the United Nations next year, the Secretary-General has chosen not to have a big birthday party but instead to use the occasion to generate discussion on these global transitions and how we can better manage them collectively.

To that end, I have been tasked by the UN Secretary-General with leading the UN 75 initiative: to stimulate dialogues with citizens around the world on:

- \*the future we aspire to
- \*the threats to that future
- \*and the tools needed for global cooperation to overcome these threats and support the future we seek.

We want these dialogues to take place in classrooms and boardrooms, town halls and community centres, local government offices and houses of parliament, on the street and online.

Our website — [www.un.org/un75](http://www.un.org/un75) — includes materials to enable people to take part — collectively and individually — as well as a feedback loop, because we want to ensure that the views and ideas generated are collected, analyzed and, crucially, brought to the attention of world leaders as they gather in New York in September 2020 to commemorate the UN's 75<sup>th</sup> anniversary.

The official start of the dialogues will be January 2020 and I hope that all of you, and the communities you represent, will take part. This is an opportunity for you to shape the global agenda, and to advocate for innovations in global governance that take into account your role at the cutting edge of global challenges and opportunities.

The motto of this conference is, “cities are listening”. The UN Secretary General wants to listen to you and through you to your communities. “Ngiyabonga”

### CONFLICTING REPORTS BY MEC AND ADMINISTRATOR POINT TO HOPELESS STATE OF MALUTI-A-PHOFUNG

**CAPE TOWN.** The Select Committee on Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Water and Sanitation and Human Settlements, has expressed unhappiness on the state of the Section 139 (1)(b) intervention at Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality, and has resolved to urgently visit the municipality to interact with the stakeholders in the municipality.

“At the centre of the committee's preoccupation is to ensure that the municipality is functional and provides services to the people. But, as things stand, there is a level of hopelessness in finding solutions,” said Mr China Dodovu, the Chairperson of the committee. The committee raised its concern around the support the provincial executive is providing to the municipality as per section 154 of the Constitution.

Furthermore, the committee has raised concerns in relation to the ballooning Eskom debt which is now standing at R5.23 billion. Also, the overall financial position of the Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality remains a major source of concern given its inability to pay and meet its financial obligations timely as contemplated in the Municipal Finance Management Act, 2003.

“It is in this context that it is surprising that the provincial executive is of the view that the intervention has reached its sell-by date and must be terminated. We are of the view that the investigative bodies must rather focus on uncovering wrongdoing within the municipality,” Mr Dodovu said. The committee has also denounced the chopping and changing of the administrator within the municipality.

The committee welcomes the report that the irregular decision to increase the salaries of the Municipal Manager and Chief Financial Officer was reversed.

In relation to the Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality, the committee has denounced the lack of movement by the municipality to implement the financial recovery plan as per the requirements of 139 (5)(a)(c). Despite this, the committee welcomes the report that the Mangaung Metro is servicing the Eskom debt.

Meanwhile, regarding Metsimaholo Local Municipality, the committee has raised a concern over the fact that the Council failed to meet and conclude its business, thus by implication, failed to execute its executive obligations in the 2019/20 financial year. Furthermore, the committee expressed a concern over the information that the Integrated Development Plan process has not been adopted, a delay according to the committee, which will inadvertently affect the delivery of services negatively.

The committee also expressed dismay that the positions of Chief Financial Officer, Director: Organisational Development and Corporate Services, Director Economic Development and Planning, Director Technical and Infrastructure Services and Director: Social Services have been vacant for over two years.

The committee has called for the provincial executive to boost its support to the struggling municipalities as per the obligation of section 154 of the Constitution, and has committed itself to heightening its oversight on the implementation of these interventions.

# Community-based Food banks for the less fortunate

## Young Communist League of SA (YCLSA)

One of the main unintended side effects of the prolonged lockdown is worsening hunger. Granted, there has been significant contribution by the public sector in this regard by adopting a YCLSA proposition of the Basic Income Grant through a six months, augmentation to other beneficiaries like the aged and the children etc. The private sector has had its share of contribution in a variety of ways while whether or not its share is a "fair share" or not remains an issue for debate.

The food packages and vouchers donated by both the private and public sectors to go a long way. To our disappointment some in our ranks and in higher echelons of the youth movement use them for petty squabbles and cheap political point scoring.

More disgusting when their sheer opportunism and factionalism is exposed by their inconsistency when they defend one Executive Mayor and attack another over a similar issue of business people who donated packages that were considered less dignified. We must not be deterred by populists masquerading as youth leaders who will stop at nothing to vilify our leaders for opportunist ends. We must instead remain steadfast and resolute in our programme

of poverty alleviation, appreciate, augment and corroborate all efforts aimed at combating hunger and starvation. This is one area that the ANC led government must focus on, and have committed cadres that understands organisational mandate in advancing interests of the poor.

While this is the case, the food parcels programme has also been exposed to and is vulnerable to a variety of challenges and risks ranging from duplication- where you find one family benefiting twice though from a different donors, lack of coordination, inefficient functionaries, ineffective systems and



Xolani Tseletsele

absence of political will from some councilors or ward committees, entitlement- where families or community members feel that they are bound to receive the parcels/package even when they do not meet the requirements set out in the criteria like living below the poverty line and not receiving any income grant and so on.

This must be anchored in a discussion of proper Food Bank and security creation, where one department or public entity, like SASSA, should be the centre of all food distribution to communities.

While we process this and other challenges brought about by this period of lockdown in which public and private intervention in the interest of saving lives and food security is required, we also ought to think of some possible models for community based feeding initiatives. One such modality is the soup kitchen programme.

The YCLSA had its inaugural soup kitchen in Dr Maile Clinic in Kgotsong- Bothaville within the demarcation of Tisha Vanga district in the year 2016. Culminating from the lockdown, the youth in this area resuscitated the kitchen. Soup kitchen is ongoing in Nyakallong-Allanridge, Kutloanong-Odendaal, Thabong and other areas in the province at least.

While it may appear ceremonial or sentimental, it makes a meaningful contribution to the lives of many who go to bed without having had a meal for this or that reason. It adds value to those who would ordinarily consume medication without a meal or even be discouraged to take medication. It is obviously not immune to a variety of challenges like perpetual succession, sustainability, stability, funding, corruption etc., however, checks and

balances.ought to be put in place for operations, governance and finances.

A quick benchmark on the above cited areas where the soup kitchen takes place shows that they take place under the auspices of the community based organizations(CBOs), Non-Governmental Organization, Non-Profit-Organizations(NPOs) etc. There is an urgent need for our people to be in the forefront of the war against poverty and the pandemic.

Let's sleeve up and rigorously engage in community based vegetable gardens in our clinics, schools, old age and orphanage centres etc for continued supplies of vegetables to sustain the soup



Mzwandile Thakhudi

kitchens in our communities and to the impoverished households. Let's glove up and vigorously engage in advocacy for community based food banks to supply our soup kitchens with vegetables and households less fortunate. We encourage the public and private sector to continue supporting these initiatives for their sustainability. There is a need to formulate a social compact of stakeholders like government, business and CBOs in this regard.

There is a well recorded precedence of public, private partnerships and cooperation's inter-departmental and governmental relations and

collaborations. Government should consider erecting, constructing and allocating facilities for community-based kitchen space for soup kitchens in each clinic and hospital. This will be to ensure that no patient takes medication without having had a meal. The community members will be at liberty to go to the clinic for brunch and late lunch. A meal ticket system may be adopted to manage identification and duplication among other issues.

A national schools' nutrition programme model where services of an entity be it private, NPO, cooperatives etc. may be procured quarterly or yearly to feed the pupils on a rotational basis may be explored. The insourcing model could be economical, in that the DOH will employ the clinic kitchen personnel as part of the auxiliary compliment and the DSD will provide groceries from their normal food parcels, business will be encouraged to donate to clinic kitchens, community food banks and vegetable gardens for sustainability of our fight against hunger and starvation.

We call upon the community in general and the youth in particular to initiate, support and maintain these initiatives.

*Xolani Tseletsele is the incumbent Free State Deputy Provincial Secretary of the Young Communist League of SA(YCLSA) and Mzwandile Thakhudi is serving National Committee Member of YCLSA: Head of Secretariat and Political Education.*

### Medical practitioner with heart for community

An unassuming and easy-going person who blends well with many in his community, Dr. Lenong Ernest Kodisang is a committed citizen who does not only provide much needed medical services to his community, but also gives hope and build young people. He believes improving people's lot is an investment. He does this through his medical practice, serving people in Thaba Nchu and other

areas nearby. He notes the critical need for medical services in rural communities who are far from readily available services and are often dogged by extreme poverty and unemployment - unable to pay medical bills.

He is also involved in community development through football clubs he established - for both boys and girls. He has recruited and developed players



from all over the province. Both teams have progressed very well over the years, taking part in many tournaments and winning some trophies in the process.

He supports many of his players; with accommodation and assist some financially with their academic programmes.

Dr. Kodisang believes sustainable livelihood can be maintained through small scale food production to combat poverty and promote good health. His advice to people in this wintery season and during the COVID-19 pandemic is to stay indoors and stay healthy.

### Parliament reacts to judgement

**Cape Town.** Parliament notes the judgment of the Constitutional Court regarding the constitutionality of the Electoral Act due to its exclusion of adult citizens to be elected to the National Assembly and Provincial Legislatures as independent candidates.

Parliament was cited in the matter, which was brought by a non-governmental organisation, the New Nation Movement. Parliament had filed a notice to abide the court's decision, together with an explanatory memorandum. The explanatory memorandum addressed, amongst others, the

time required for processing legislation, if amendments to the existing Electoral Act were required, and requested the court's consideration in this regard.

The Constitutional Court has given Parliament 24 months in which to pass the required legislation, following its finding that the Electoral Act is unconstitutional because it does not allow individual candidates to run for political office.

Parliament respects the judgment of the Constitutional Court, and will study its practical implications in relation to its obligations on the Legislature.

### Important contacts - Mangaung Municipality

- Water Division 051 – 533 0525
- Infrastructure 051 – 533 0513/512
- Water & Sanitation 051 – 533 0515/516
- Cemetery - 051 534 4915
- Aids unit -051 533 0580
- Facilities Bookings 051 – 533 0506
- Law Enforcement 051 – 533 0537
- Sewerage Dept. 051 – 534 0707
- Waste Management 051534 0561
- Health Inspector 051 – 533 0592
- Engineering 051 – 533 0512
- Disaster Management 051 – 406 6666
- Botshabelo library 051 – 533 0556
- Economic development 051 – 533 0554
- Building & Plans Inspector – 051 533 0625
- Centlec 051 – 409 2414
- Human Settlement 051 – 533 0523
- Traffic Division 051 – 533 0544
- Police Station 051 – 535 8102
- Botshabelo Hospital 051 – 533 0111
- Registry Clerk 051 – 533 0503

### COVID-19

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